

debate on Monday. I have brought this matter up at the moment because there is still time to consider it before eleven o'clock, and for more reasons than one, I hope that this may be arranged.

Mr. GRAYDON: I was not in the house when this discussion began, but I was rather afraid that there would be some further alteration in the arrangement that was made when we consented to the coming of General McNaughton to this chamber. I am told that there is very little further questioning, and from what I can gather, I think we ought to be able to finish to-night. Further than that, I think it should be possible for General McNaughton to file or table such answers as are confidential because, despite what has been said, nothing has been abused here which in my opinion would call for a secret session. If we had adopted the original suggestion that the session should be secret we would have had a lot of information denied the public which has been given. Perhaps we might go on past eleven o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, indeed; we will not go on after eleven, when some of us have been up night after night, on towards dawn, in order that the house might get the fullest information at the earliest possible moment. There may have been a reason in the minds of some hon. members for seeking to rush this session rapidly when they felt that there was inadequate provision for reinforcements; but the order in council which has been tabled to-day completely removes any possible concern in the mind of anyone with regard to the reinforcements which our men overseas will have.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, it does so far as the minds of most are concerned.

An hon. MEMBER: It does not mean anything.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not surprised that it does not to the hon. member. May I say this, however. I take strongly the position that any government, at a time of war, is entitled to consideration. It is not expected to be badgered at every stage, and, as I have observed Mr. Churchill's actions in the British house, he spends so many hours in the house in the course of a week and the rest of his time is given to urgent matters relating to the war itself. What we have to consider here may be relatively small, but the principles at stake are the same, and there is like necessity for the Prime Minister and his colleagues to take up matters that are pressing in relation to the war. As far as I am

concerned, if I can prevent it, and having regard to the responsibility I have to the Canadian people, I shall not allow hon. gentlemen opposite to break down myself or other members of the administration by forcing us at a pace which is absolutely unreasonable in the light of the circumstances of to-day and the responsibilities devolving on the members of the government.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): May I ask one question? The Prime Minister spoke of consideration being extended to the administration. May I ask him, in all seriousness, whether during the sessions of 1940, 1941, 1942 and since, there has not been extended to him and his administration, every consideration having regard to the circumstances which have surrounded us? At any rate, that was my aim throughout that time, and the same is true to-day.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I will leave it to every hon. member and every citizen of the country to judge for himself how much cooperation this government has had from hon. gentlemen opposite during this past year and how much we are having at the present time. How much have they cooperated with us in this effort? In my public appeal I expressed the hope that men of all parties—and my hon. friend belongs to one—would play their part in supporting us in that regard. I cannot quite distinguish the words of the hon. member opposite. I hope he will excuse me, but there is so much noise in the house that I cannot catch what he is saying.

Mr. HOMUTH: I am telling the Prime Minister, do not let the little man from Vancouver, sitting behind, interrupt the proceedings.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think, Mr. Chairman, it is a fortunate thing that we have a certain amount of humour in the midst of our discussions. I do not think any of us could live long without a certain amount of that, but there are times and places for all things, and I do say that this particular session calls for the consideration of the most serious situation that Canada has been faced with, and there is something besides levity that should govern the house at this time. If the house is of the opinion that there should not be further questioning of General McNaughton, and if to-morrow I find it is inadvisable for me, with the responsibilities I have, to go on with the debate, I shall ask that the house adjourn until Monday. On the other hand, if it is desired that General McNaughton be further questioned by hon. members, then I would say, let us continue with that to-morrow.